

REMARKS

Claims 5, 6, 10-16, 20-25, 28,29, 33-51, 56, 57, 64, 65, 69 and 72 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 7, 17, 26, 30, 52, 58, 62, 66, 70, 74 and 76 are amended herein. Claims 1-4, 7-9, 17-19, 26, 27, 30-32, 52-55, 58-63, 66-68, 70, 71 and 73-77 are pending in the application. Re-examination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

Claims 5, 7-9, 20-23, 25, 28, 30, 32, 56, 58-60, 64, 66-68, 70, 71 and 73-77 have been objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The claims are amended herein, effectively in the manner suggested by the Examiner, to place the application in condition for allowance. In particular, rather than making claim 5 independent, claim 1 is amended herein to include the subject matter of allowed, dependent claim 5 and, thus, is a re-submission of allowable claim 5 in independent form. Claim 1 is, therefore, allowable for the same reason that claim 5 was allowable. Claim 5 is cancelled to avoid redundancy.

Claims 2-4 are dependent (directly or indirectly) on claim 1 and, thus, are believed to be allowable for reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1.

Claim 7 is amended to be in independent form and is, thus, in condition for allowance. Claims 8 and 9 are dependent (directly or indirectly) on claim 7 and, thus, are also allowable.

Claim 17 is amended herein to include the subject matter of allowed, dependent claim 20 and, thus, is a re-submission of allowable claim 20 in independent form. Claim 17 is, therefore, allowable for the same reason that claim 20 was allowable. Claim 20 is cancelled to avoid redundancy.

Claims 18 and 19 are dependent on claim 17 and, thus are believed to be allowable for reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 17.

Claim 26 is amended herein to include the subject matter of allowed, dependent claim 28 and, thus, is a re-submission of allowable claim 28 in independent form. Claim 26 is, therefore, allowable for the same reason that claim 28 was allowable. Claim 28 is cancelled to avoid redundancy.

Claim 27 is dependent on claim 26 and, thus is believed to be allowable for reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 26.

Claim 30 is amended to be in independent form and is, thus, in condition for allowance. Claims 31 and 32 are dependent (directly or indirectly) on claim 30 and, thus, are also allowable.

Claim 52 is amended herein to include the subject matter of allowed, dependent claim 56 and, thus, is a re-submission of allowable claim 56 in independent form. Claim 52 is, therefore, allowable for the same reason that claim 56 was allowable. Claim 56 is cancelled to avoid redundancy.

Claims 53-55 are dependent (directly or indirectly) on claim 52 and, thus are believed to be allowable for reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 52.

Claim 58 is amended to be in independent form and is, thus, in condition for allowance. Claims 59 and 60 are dependent (directly or indirectly) on claim 30 and, thus, are also allowable.

Claim 62 is amended herein to include the subject matter of allowed, dependent claim 64 and, thus, is a re-submission of allowable claim 64 in independent form. Claim 62 is, therefore, allowable for the same reason that claim 64 was allowable. Claim 64 is cancelled to avoid redundancy.

Claim 63 is dependent on claim 62 and, thus is believed to be allowable for reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 62.

Claim 66 is amended to be in independent form and is, thus, in condition for allowance. Claims 67 and 68 are dependent (directly or indirectly) on claim 66 and, thus, are also allowable.

Claim 70 is amended to be in independent form and is, thus, in condition for allowance. Claims 71 and 73 are dependent on claim 70 and, thus, are also allowable.

Claim 74 is amended to be in independent form and is, thus, in condition for allowance. Claim 75 is dependent on claim 74 and, thus, is also allowable.

Claim 76 is amended to be in independent form and is, thus, in condition for allowance. Claim 77 is dependent on claim 76 and, thus, is also allowable.

Claims 1-4, 11-15, 17-18, 42-44, 62, 65 and 72 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Addler. With regard to cancelled claims 11-15, 42-44, 65 and 72, this rejection is moot. With regard to the other cited claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed, in view of the above-described amendments to the claims.

In particular, independent claims 1, 17 and 62 are amended to include the subject matter (and to be a re-presentation) of allowable claims 5, 20 and 64, respectively. Claims 2-4 and 18 are dependent (directly or indirectly) on independent claim 1 or 17.

Claims 26, 27, 29, 52-55 and 57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dieulesaint. With regard to cancelled claims 29 and 57, this rejection is moot. With regard to claims 26, 27 and 52-55, this rejection is respectfully traversed, in view of the above-described amendments to the claims.

In particular, independent claims 26 and 52 are amended to include the subject matter (and to be a re-presentation) of allowable claims 28 and 56, respectively. Claims 27 and 53-55 are dependent (directly or indirectly) on independent claim 26 or 52.

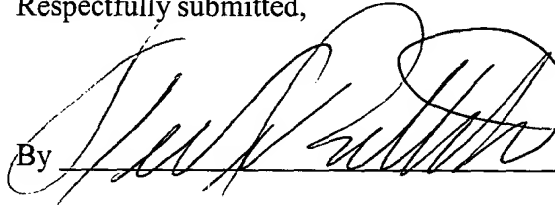
In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Re-examination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested. If, for any reason, the Examiner believes that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (310) 975-7963, to discuss any steps that may be needed to place the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

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By



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